

BLOOMFIELD FILE 2/58

HISTORY- WORLD WAR, 1939-1945

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History
of
Bloomfield Chapter
Red Cross



1939 - 1946

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author HISTORY OF BLOOMFIELD CHAPTER sent to the following people: AMERICAN RED CROSS

Mrs. David Oakes 1939-1946 the manuscript; to Mr. William A. Ellis, for the testimonial concerning the contribution of Mr. Willard Miller; to Mrs. T. E. Spencer for the summarization of the contributions of Mrs. David Oakes; to Mr. Harry Rice, for permission to use the analytical survey of Bloomfield; to Mrs. Essie G. Andersen, for assistance in preparation of the manuscript.

Vesta M. Parsons
Bloomfield, New Jersey
September 30, 1946

Compiled By
Vesta M. Parsons
Public Information Chairman

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Vesta M. Parsons
Bloomfield, New Jersey
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CHAPTER CHAIRMEN

1939	George O. Van Tassel
1940	George O. Van Tassel
1941	H. T. Hollingsworth
1942	H. T. Hollingsworth
1943	H. T. Hollingsworth
1944	Howard Biddulph
1945	Howard Biddulph
1946	Wallace J. Ellor

Mrs. David Oakes

Chairman, Public Health Nursing Service 1928 - 1946

Chairman, Volunteer Special Services 1939 - 1946

Vice-Chairman, Bloomfield Chapter 1941 - 1946

Mrs. David Oakes of 240 Belleville Avenue, was chosen our town's outstanding citizen in 1938, but for the years 1939 - 1946, she was the outstanding Volunteer for Bloomfield Chapter, American Red Cross. For six years, Mrs. Oakes was the only representative from the State of New Jersey on Miss Boardman's Round Table and in 1942 was asked by Mrs. Dwight Davis again to represent the State at the Round Table conference held at the Hotel Drake in Chicago. These members of the Round Table discussed the Volunteer Special Services and made general plans for the conduct and administration of these services throughout the United States.

As Chairman of Volunteer Special Services, it was the duty of Mrs. Oakes to know the needs of the community at all times. As new services were required she planned for recruiting and training new Corps. With a very active Canteen Corps as a beginning, a Nutrition Course was given and Dietitian Aides trained and assigned to Mountainside Hospital for the emergency. Many Nurse's Aides were recruited and trained also to be assigned for duty at Mountainside Hospital. When the call came for

Gray Ladies to give service at Lyons Veterans Facility, Mrs. Oakes, herself a Gray Lady for many years, soon had a most efficient Corps trained and at work.

Mrs. Oakes was chairman of the Nursing Committee during the years 1928-1946. As she was thoroughly acquainted with nursing conditions and needs in Bloomfield, she was a very valuable member of the Nurse Recruitment Committee. She saw the need and advantage of having many women trained in Home Nursing and did much to see the classes were carried on and equipment made available. Through her affiliations with Mountainside Hospital, Mrs. Oakes arranged for the Mobile Unit to visit the Mills Home where the Bloomfield blood plasma unit was established. The Blood Bank became so successful that it was moved to the Parish House of the old First Church and the Mobile Unit made regular trips from New York. Each person giving blood was greeted and made comfortable by Mrs. Oakes, who, dressed in her familiar Gray Lady uniform, never missed a session.

In 1940, Mrs. Oakes was named Vice-Chairman of the Chapter. In 1941, she became first Vice-Chairman. One of her first activities as Vice-Chairman was the purchase of a station wagon, through donations, for use in Chapter work and later a Canteen truck was purchased and used extensively. She was also a member of the Camp and Hospital Committee, the Home Service Committee and the Disaster Preparedness Committee.

Mrs. Oakes' services as a speaker on Volunteer Special

Services were greatly in demand. She traveled to many New Jersey Communities carrying her dolls dressed in the uniforms of the Special Services. She explained the duties and uniform of each service while showing the representative doll. As Volunteers were being trained in great numbers a return visit to teach other classes usually followed because of her vivid description.

During the War Fund Campaign, Mrs. Oakes was kept busy speaking at the Fund Rallies for the industries in Town, but was never too busy to carry on her duties to the Volunteer Service. It made her extremely happy to present the Certificates for completion of courses and pins for required hours of service. While her Gray Lady service in Mountainside Hospital was closest to her heart and she never missed her two half days each week, she was always available to every Volunteer who needed her. Outstanding in Mrs. Oakes' service was her willingness to work and the fact she never asked or expected a Volunteer to do anything she wasn't capable or willing to do herself. In every way she was a great inspiration to each Volunteer.

Willard W. Miller

Treasurer, Bloomfield Chapter, 1924 - 1946

No account of the American Red Cross war effort in Bloomfield would be complete without acknowledgment of the unique contribution of the late Willard W. Miller. For twenty-two years, from 1924 until his death in 1946, he served as treasurer of the chapter and during all that period was largely responsible for its sound financial condition. With the outbreak of the war, he threw his dynamic energy behind the successive war fund drives, characteristically keeping out of the limelight himself, and so infusing the organization with his own tireless enthusiasm that the success of each campaign was assured. During four successive drives, beginning with the month of Pearl Harbor, again in the spring of 1943, again in 1944, and in 1945, he not only set up the organization for the campaign, but personally canvassed the factories for their contributions which in an industrial community, such as Bloomfield, spelled the success or failure of the entire campaign. At the same time, he was serving as one of three members of the local draft board, as co-chairman of the several war bond drives, and as service officer of the local American Legion post, in addition to his duties as president of the Bloomfield Savings Institution. The success of the drives enabled the chapter to purchase a well-located headquarters to take care of the demands of its war activities, to put the building in excellent repair

Organization of Bloomfield Chapter American Red Cross, consists of a chairman, five vice-chairmen, a treasurer, a secretary, and one member-at-large of the Executive Committee. The Board of Directors consists of sixty-three members made up of the chairmen of the various services and others prominent in the activities of the chapter and the community. To these, we must add the approximately several hundred volunteer workers. Paid workers include an Executive Secretary, Home Service Secretary, a secretary, two public health nurses, and a janitor.

*Bloomfield Chapter, American Red Cross has jurisdiction over an area of 5.4 square miles with a population that has grown during the war years from 42,000 to 45,000.

The town should be classified as an industrial - residential type with approximately 56% of our residents commuting to neighboring cities, and the rest employed in Bloomfield in one of the 76 industrial plants, or service occupations of stores, restaurants, shops, domestic employ, plus the professions of law, medicine, nursing, dentistry, ministry and teaching.

The national backgrounds of our people are very diverse, with representation from almost every country in Europe. The settlements have been somewhat segregated with distinct boundaries for Italian, Polish and negro groups. Infiltration is now going on and school district lines cut across national divisions so no school is dominantly nationalized.

The racial status of our community is predominately^{nt} white American. According to the latest figures of Bloomfield there are 842 negroes, thus representing approximately 2% of the population, 6,836 foreign born white or approximately 15% of the population, and 33,933 native whites, which represent approximately 82% of the population.

The lingual status of Bloomfield is predominately English. Of the foreign languages spoken we find 2.6% of the total population of the town speak German, 2.5% speak Italian, and 2.2% speak Polish. The lingual status of the homes is predominately^{nt} English. In the 193 homes in which a foreign language is spoken we find that Italian is spoken in 43% of them, Polish in 20%, and German in 19% of them.

The citizens of Bloomfield have access to the following health centers, clinics and health agencies.

- (1) Mountainside Hospital and Clinic
- (2) Bloomfield Dental Clinic
- (3) Bloomfield Day Nursery
- (4) Bloomfield Board of Health
- (5) Anti-Tuberculosis League
- (6) Baby Welfare Clinic
- (7) State Commission for the Blind
- (8) Columbus Hospital
- (9) Newark Eye and Ear Infirmary
- (10) Essex County Mental Hygiene Clinic
- (11) New Jersey Orthopedic Hospital and Dispensary
- (12) St. Vincent's Hospital
- (13) League for Hard of Hearing
- (14) Community Hospital

In short, it can be said that the 5.4 square miles of Bloomfield provide attractive, convenient, healthy, economic facilities for all of its citizens.*

*The above information between asterisks was taken from a report made by the senior high school to the Middle Atlantic States Association, Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Contingent upon the entry of the United States into the war, the activities stressed in the Bloomfield Chapter during the autumn of 1941 were those in which great numbers of people in the community could contribute in a practical way to the success of the war effort. In the absence of a Chapter House, educational activities took place in various parts of the town: two standard and one advanced first aid courses were given in the Bank and Trust Building; one at Bakelite Corporation and two in conjunction with the Bloomfield Defense Council at the Central Fire House. The Canteen Course was taught in the High School building; home nursing at the Community House, nutrition at the Women's Club. In October, the Women's Club turned over the entire facilities of the club house to Red Cross each Wednesday for surgical dressings. Volunteers for Production responded to the Chairman's call. In October, Bloomfield Chapter in collaboration with Montclair, Glen Ridge and Essex Chapters sponsored a Nurses' Aide course,

With the advent of the war, chapter housing facilities became entirely inadequate. The result was in 1940 the rental of the lower floor of a house situated at 6 Washington Street. In 1943, this same frame dwelling of fourteen rooms was purchased in its entirety, with grounds and a three car garage for the Chapter Headquarters. This house was redecorated and adapted to accomplish the accelerated war program.

SERVICES OF THE BLOOMFIELD CHAPTER

"They Kept Your Red Cross At His Side"

increasing war effort and by August of 1943, it was necessary to employ a full-time paid stenographer to coordinate the filing and secretarial work of this department.

Throughout the war years services covered by the Home Service Department included all of those services set forth in the National program. However, during different phases of the war the emphasis of service changed. During the period of active participation against the enemy, the greatest volume of work was in communications which had shifted to overseas and was rigidly affected by military security measures. Since V-J Day, we have recognized a change in emphasis of service from helping active servicemen and their families in filing for Government benefits, and assisting them as needed financially to a greater and more intensive program of counseling and guidance with veterans and their families, with greater concentration on claims service to veterans and their dependents, and dependents of deceased veterans.

From 1943, through 1945, Home Service sponsored a Prisoner of War nearest-of-kin group to assist families of Bloomfield Prisoners of War to meet together to discuss problems common to all and to help keep them informed of what was being done.

In 1944, Home Service represented Red Cross on the Mayor's Advisory Committee and actively participated in organizing the Citizens' and Veterans' Service. Our chief interest in this program was to coordinate the services available to veterans in Bloomfield so that there would not

SPECIAL WAR TIME SERVICES

Blood Donor Service

Chairmen:

1941 Mrs. E. E. Pilloni

1942-1946 Mrs. H. Garrett Van der Veer

This spectacular service, which in March 1941, had been so unusual that thirteen Bloomfield women, who had donated blood had been "news" and their pictures carried by the Newark Sunday Call, grew tremendously as people here at home strove to save the lives of their men on the battle field. By the end of 1942, Bloomfield Chapter had 242 donors; due to the cooperation of Mr. Albert Duckworth at Westinghouse Corporation and its employees, by the end of 1943, 1,764; by the end of 1944, 2,800 and as of V-J Day 1,725. These figures represent a total in three and a half years of 6,531 donors. Mobile units came to Westinghouse Corporation, Watsessing Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church Parish House.

Camp and Hospital Service

Chairmen:

1942-1943 Mrs. William Hoppes

1944-1945 Mrs. T. Peachy Spencer

1946 Mrs. Herbert L. Tunison

As early as 1943, Bloomfield Chapter was a member of both the Camp Joyce Kilmer Council and the Essex County Camp Council and was participating generously in furnishing items intended to bring relief and comfort to servicemen in camps and hospitals. The varied list of these needs

included furniture; recreational articles, such as musical instruments and games; emergency hospital supplies; candy, cookies, cigarettes; tobacco; material for handwork; Christmas cards, gift boxes and greens; and Christmas and Thanksgiving parties.

1944 saw the scope of activities enlarged with a total of 8,144 articles donated by the people of Bloomfield. In addition to its regular commitments, Bloomfield, at the request of the Field Director, sent gifts to Camp Patrick Henry in Virginia. A sun porch and open porch were furnished at Weequahic Park. In 1945, fifty-two overseas kits were contributed. A particularly noteworthy accomplishment during this year's work was assisting in the furnishing of a lounge at the Army Transport Cargo Building at Newark Air Base, for servicemen detained in transit.

In 1945, Bloomfield Chapter added to its obligations already assumed, service to the Veterans Facility at Lyons, New Jersey. It carried on with the type of requests previously mentioned and furnished the Chapel at Weequahic Park. Camp and Hospital assisted with the redecorating of the mess hall at Weequahic Park Hospital and fulfilled the heaviest Christmas program in its history.

To the Camp and Hospital Service, the citizens and organizations of Bloomfield have been especially generous.

Prisoner of War Packing Service

Chairmen:

1943 Mrs. L. C. Schoof
1944-1945 Mrs. G. Nelson Davis

Bloomfield Chapter, assisted the Newark Chapter until the New York Packing Center was closed, May 14, 1945.

Bloomfield sent volunteers every Friday afternoon to help pack the food and invalid packages, paid for by the United States Government but distributed through the International Red Cross to the American prisoners of war. When the service ended, Bloomfield had furnished in all, 2,178 hours of work on the line to this very valuable service.

A summary by years follows:

Year	No. of Volunteers	Hours
1943	24	923 $\frac{1}{2}$
1944	32	895
until May 14, 1945	15	360
	Total -	2,178 $\frac{1}{2}$

VOLUNTEER SPECIAL SERVICES

Staff Assistance Corps

Co-Chairmen:

1939-1940 Misses Marie Hoffmire and Louise Shaul

Chairman:

1941-1946 Mrs. Theodore C. Hock

All the many details of office and clerical work which are a part of any organization and which must be accurately handled in an efficient organization are the lot of the Staff Assistance Corps. More than ten times as many people in 1941 gave their services as in 1939. These volunteers served their Red Cross Chapter and their community. Their various duties included among others, routine office work at Chapter Headquarters, clerical work for Surgical Dressings, outgoing production, Blood Donor Service, collecting funds and keeping records in special drives, clerical work for the Community Chest and the A. R. P. and at the Packing Center in New York and at the Induction Board at Newark Armory. Two members of the Staff Assistance Corps went into Red Cross Foreign Service.

A summary of the work follows:

Year	No. of Volunteers	Hours
1939	21	411
1940	25	1,409 3/4
1941	257	3,104
1942	93	3,745
1943	44	4,777
1944	64	4,170

1945	70	4,170
1946	36	<u>1,963</u>
		23,753 3/4

Dietitian's Aide Corps

Chairman:

1943-1946 Mrs. Joseph F. Anderson

In October 1943, Bloomfield Chapter was asked to participate with Montclair, West Essex and Glen Ridge Chapters in forming a Dietitian's Aide Corps to assist the Dietary Department at Mountainside Hospital in relieving the help shortage. Nine classes were instructed at the Montclair Chapter and at the Mountainside Hospital.

The Montclair Dietitian's Aide Chairman headed the committee of Red Cross and Hospital Personnel, and while the four chapters worked in one group, each chapter chairman was held responsible for her own Corps of Dietitian's Aides.

Four Bloomfield Aides completed the prescribed course in March 1944, each pledging a yearly service of 150 hours. By the end of that year, the number increased to fourteen aides serving at the hospital, and at the close of 1945, the Corps numbered twenty-three Aides. Eleven of these remained active to July 1, 1946, when we were instructed to disband this wartime emergency corps after having served 5,832½ hours with six of our Aides acting in a supervisory capacity.

Following the hurricane of September 14, 1944, three of our corps members were called for emergency duty and

on all the important holidays these Dietitian's Aides were among those serving the hospital patients.

A summary of the work by years follows:

Year	No. of Volunteers	Hours
1944	14	1,217 $\frac{1}{2}$
1945	20	3,341
1946	13	1,274
Total -		5,832 $\frac{1}{2}$

Home Service Corps

Chairmen:

1942-October 1943 Mrs. H. T. Hollingsworth
October 1943-1946 Mrs. Vivian Cady

In 1942, a small group of Staff Assistants directed their interests to the Home Service work and this was the nucleus of the first corps group. In June of 1943, the first training course for the Home Service Corps was given in the chapter. A class of five Home Service Volunteers completed the required thirty-hour course. Home Service was rendered on a 24-hour basis and when the office was closed, these corps members took care of all emergencies which arose, being on call for telegrams and other calls. Each volunteer took every fifth week, covering for the weekend and every night that week.

In April 1944, a second training course was given and five new members were added to the corps. Each volunteer was on call every tenth week for emergency calls after office hours and in addition, assisted regularly with Home Service work during the day. From March 7, 1944, to July 16, 1944, the corps assumed full respon-

sibility for the Chapter's obligations to servicemen and ex-servicemen, when the Chapter was without a Home Service Secretary.

In April, 1946, a third training course was given for new Home Service volunteers and four new members were added to the corps. This was necessary when several of the former corps members had to withdraw from active participation because of increased responsibilities at home.

There are now still 13 members assisting with the Home Service program. The following statistics show the number of hours the volunteers have worked.

Year	No. of Volunteers	Hours
1943	6	2,605
1944	10	3,768 $\frac{1}{2}$
1945	10	3,458
1946	13	2,161
Total -		11,993 $\frac{1}{2}$

Canteen Corps

Chairman:

1939-1946 Miss Clara Schauffler

This hard working corps was fortunate in having as its chairman, a woman who had served Red Cross through World War I, when she organized and directed the Junior Red Cross in Bloomfield in 1918, and served with the canteen at South Amboy, New Jersey, in October, 1918 at the time of the T. N. T. explosion. Miss Schauffler has served the Bloomfield Chapter steadily since 1917.

Reorganized in 1940 to function in time of emergency, the Canteen Corps handled diverse problems. Through the

years following, the corps assisted the ARP, provided large group luncheons on such occasions as the feeding of 1,300 people at Star Electric when that industry received its Army-Navy E, served lunches for Surgical Dressing workers, and group refreshments for Blood Donor Units, conducted classes for adults and juniors, and gave community canning demonstrations.

Outside the immediate community, the work was also broad in scope. The Corps performed disaster duty at the Hoboken Pier Fire, furnished parties at Weequahic and Lyons Hospitals and after November 1944, gave twenty-four hour service every ninth day at the Essex Council Canteen at the Newark Air Base and is now serving Civilian Blood Donor Service at Mountainside Hospital.

A summary of work by years follows:

Year	No. of Volunteers	Hours
1940	28	.
1941	30	1,635
1942	180	7,078
1943	136	10,421
1944	94	9,331
1945	84	10,246
1946	84	<u>2,269</u>
Total -		40,980

Nurses Aide Corps

Chairmen:

1941-1945 Mrs. David Oakes

1946 Miss Elizabeth Garlick

Captain of Corps 1941-1946 Miss Elizabeth Garlick

In Response to the shortage of nurses due to the requirements of the army and navy, Civilian Defense asked

Red Cross to train Nurses Aides. In 1941, Bloomfield was asked to participate with Montclair, Glenridge, and West Essex Chapters in training a corps of aides to serve at Mountainside, Community and St. Vincents Hospitals. The Aides were trained at Montclair Chapter and served as one Corp in the hospital. In addition to the hospital work, they served their Chapters by assisting at Blood Donor Centers and at casualty stations of the Civilian Defense during practice black outs.

One of our Aides served over 2,000 hours and three of our aides pursued their nursing studies and became registered nurses.

After hostilities ceased, the hospital still needed and asked for the continued assistance of our aides. The aides are still active, but since June 1946, have become a reserve corps by orders from National Red Cross, which necessitates their working a minimum of 50 hours instead of 150 hours a year.

A summary by years follows:

Year	No. of Volunteers	Hours
1942	32	2,958
1943	37	7,377
1944	36	10,359 $\frac{1}{2}$
1945	30	<u>10,210</u>
Total -		30,904 $\frac{1}{2}$

Arts and Skills

Chairman: Miss Anna Thomas

In the Fall of 1945, a Chairman of Arts and Skills was appointed and several applicants were interviewed for

training. Due to varied reasons, these volunteers were unable to continue with their training. We are anticipating training new recruits in the Fall of 1946.

Production Corps

Chairmen:

1939-1944 Mrs. Arthur W. Wyker
 1945 Mrs. J. C. Krysl
 1946 Mrs. H. R. Van Cleve

With this very large and very active corps the figures are tremendous. Even in 1940, one thousand Bloomfield women were sewing, knitting and making surgical dressings for the Chapter. After Pearl Harbor, the response was so great that the Corps Chairman publicly expressed her assurance that the chapter could take care of any quota that National Red Cross might send. The Army, the Navy, Mountainside Hospital, servicemen's wives and needy families of Bloomfield, refugees in need of garments, all these received help from Production Corps.

A summary in terms of years and number of articles made follows:

Sewing

Year	No. of Articles
1940	1,325
1941	4,285
1942	13,833
1943	9,879
1944	5,959
1945	3,203
1946	<u>4,277</u>
Total	- 44,738

Knitting

Chairman: 1939-1946 Mrs. H. R. Van Cleve

Year Number of Articles

1940	1,195
1941	3,072
1942	3,060
1943	2,072
1944	859
1945	250
1946	<u>279</u>
Total - 10,788	

Surgical Dressings

Chairman: 1939-1946 Mrs. William Woodburn

Year Number of Articles

1939	.
1940	61,885
1941	197,446
1942	310,214
1943	500,000
1944	501,847
1945	57,868
1946	<u>46,115</u>
1,665,365 - Total	

Hospital & Recreational Corps

Chairmen:

1939-1943 Mrs. David Oakes
 1944 Mrs. Spencer Phraner
 1945-1946 Mrs. Palmer G. Cuning

Work at Mountainside Hospital, Montclair, N. J. among civilians and at the Veterans Administration, Lyons, N. J. comprised the program of the Gray Ladies until 1942, when additional service was given on the occasion of the visits by the Blood Donor Unit. In 1943, they also served during blackout tests. By 1944, and in 1945, a corps of five Gray Ladies served at Lyons Veterans Administration Hospital. Their duties were to do anything requested of them by the

hospital staff, such as letter-writing, visiting bed-patients, entertaining them with games of cards and checkers, and also playing outdoor games with those able to be out. They also did work in the field of Physical Therapy, made surgical dressings, and served as hostesses.

A summary by years and number of hours served follows:

Year	No. of Volunteers	Hours
1939	2	240
1940	2	324 $\frac{1}{2}$
1941	2	595 $\frac{1}{2}$
1942	1	264
1943	1	307
1944	5	1,007
1945	6	1,094 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total -		3,902 $\frac{1}{2}$

Motor Corps

Chairmen:

1939-1945 Mrs. T. P. Spencer
1946 Mrs. Warren Johnson

For seven years the same Chairman of Motor Corps rendered invaluable assistance to the Chapter, the community, and the Armed Forces. She, along with her corps, drove in all weathers, paid all their own expenses, and contributed unstintingly the use of the priceless commodity -- the family car.

For the Chapter, they maintained the transportation of personnel and materials as well as War Fund requirements transportation of Canteen to Lyons Hospital, transportation for blood bank, and transportation to Newark Air Base. Regular trips were made to Camp Kilmer and Weequahic Park Installations.

For the community, the Motor Corps covered clinics in local hospitals daily, in New York and Newark frequently, mastered "blackout" driving, delivered bread daily to the Day Nursery, delivered library books, collected books for the Home for the Aged, and drove a child, a double amputee, to school daily from 1944-1946. Pneumonia serum was transported for clinic patients at Mountainside Hospital. The Motor Corps drove student nurses from Mountainside for their affiliations at Soho and for classes at Overbrook Hospital and Haverstraw Orthopedic Hospital.

For the Armed Forces, the Corps performed such duties as transporting entertainers to Kilmer and St. Albans Hospitals, driving wounded and ill veterans home on leave to regular Service Hospitals, emergency transportation for returning servicemen and transportation for firing squads from Navy and Coast Guard stations as well as Army bases for military funerals.

A summary of these services in terms of miles and hours follows:

Year	No. of Volunteers	Hours	Miles
1940	14		13,907
1941	23	2,398	13,300 $\frac{1}{2}$
1942	28	5,160	30,007
1943	28	7,782	12,542
1944	23	8,571	23,420
1945	23	7,159	22,468
1946	13	<u>1,156</u>	<u>7,292</u>
		32,226	123,006 $\frac{1}{2}$

NURSING ACTIVITIES SERVICES

Public Health Nursing

Chairman:

1939-1945 Mrs. David Oakes

1946 Mrs. Joseph Anderson

Two Public Health Nurses have done the bedside nursing for Bloomfield and Glen Ridge patients, covering both indigent and paying patients. Instruction and care have been given to patients of the John Hancock Life Insurance Company, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Essex County Welfare Board and Crippled Childrens Commission patients. The nurses have averaged 3,150 calls a year. The Bloomfield Chapter has carried this service for twenty-six years, thereby demonstrating to the community the value of such a Public Health Nursing Service. The Committee has been reorganized in 1946 with the idea of transferring this service to the community as soon as satisfactory plans can be made.

Nurse Recruitment

Chairmen:

1943 Miss Margaret Willever, R. N.

1943 Mrs. F. J. Kearny, R. N.

1944-1946 Miss Elizabeth Pollock, R. N.

This service, organized in March 1943, succeeded not only in recruiting nurses for the Army and Navy but in keeping in touch with these women while they were with the Armed Forces through sending them birthday, Valentine, and Christmas cards, as well as letters of congratulations when

Junior Red Cross

Chairmen:

1929-1940 Mrs. Van Arsdale
1940-1942 Mrs. Frank Stack
1942-1943 Mrs. A. H. Skogsberg
1943-1946 Mrs. J. H. Pariseau

Every school child of Bloomfield belongs to the Junior Red Cross. There is a governing body, consisting of one teacher from each school, several members of the community and the chairman. The children have their own council which is composed of at least two representatives from each of the schools. This council meets with the chairman once each month to discuss plans for their activities.

During November there is a "Roll Call" to membership. Each school is assessed a certain amount by National for which we receive copies of the Junior Red Cross News and Junior Red Cross Journal, magazines which the children very much enjoy.

Funds are directed into three channels: assistance to veterans hospitals, to children in foreign lands, and to children in our own community. On every holiday, the children express their gratitude to the men at Lyons, Weequahic and Kilmer with gifts of candy, favors, and napkins. The manual training boys have made games and ash stands and the girls have made afghans. Through National Childrens Fund, the Junior Red Cross contributes each year to the purchase of candy and milk for the undernourished and starving children of other countries. At home, the Junior Red Cross maintains a school fund for the purchase of milk and eye glasses, and through its

Orthopedic Fund, provides prosthesis for unfortunate children of Bloomfield.

Nutrition

Chairmen:

1939-1942 Miss Clara Schauffler
 1942-1945 Miss Beatrice Trenkle
 1946 Mrs. Elmer R. Hering

The aim of this phase of community education was, in the beginning, to interpret recent developments in nutrition and cookery so that homemakers would be better equipped to select and prepare foods wisely and economically. The Nutrition Committee taught lessons on normal diet, and in four Home Nursing Classes, types of diet for the sick. It also assisted in making a survey of the eating habits of the employees in two industrial plants in a unit of work designed to call to the workers' attention the benefits of proper diets. A highlight of the 1945 work was the four-day Nutrition Education Program given in cooperation with the Office of Price Administration at the General Electric Company in Bloomfield.

The Canteen Corps and the Dietitian's Aide Corps members were all given a course in Nutrition. In the summer of 1946, a canning demonstration was given in cooperation with our Nutrition Department and the Famine Emergency Relief Council in participation in the drive for conservation of food.

A summary of numbers of classes and certificates by years follows:

Year	No. of Classes	No. of Certificates
1939	1	13
1940	1	10

1941	1	20
1942	3	21
1943	4	66
1944	2	25
1945	2	15
1946	1	6

1941-1942 Mr. Richard L. ...
1942-1943 Mr. Robert F. Courtney
1943-1944 Mr. R. W. ...

... and ...
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1941-1942 Mr. Robert F. Courtney
1942-1943 Mr. R. W. ...

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1941-1942 Mr. R. W. ...
1942-1943 Mr. Robert F. Courtney
1943-1944 Mr. R. W. ...

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Safety Services

First Aid

Chairmen:

1940 Mrs. D. C. Thompson
1941-1942 Mr. Richard Shears
1943-1945 Mr. Robert P. Courtney
1946 Dr. O. N. Liming

2,091 First Aid Standard Certificates were issued during the war years. A campaign is being waged in the Fall of 1946 to increase the number of First Aid students.

Accident Prevention

Chairmen:

1942 Dr. Walter Miller
1943-1945 Mr. Robert P. Courtney
1946 Dr. O. N. Liming

Bloomfield Chapter had the distinction of conducting the first Red Cross class in Home Accident Prevention in Essex County.

Water Safety

Chairmen:

1940 Mrs. D. C. Thompson
1941-1942 Mr. Harry Webber, Jr.
1943-1945 Mr. Robert P. Courtney
1946 Dr. O. N. Liming

Bloomfield has no swimming pool, but four candidates were sent to Aquatic School during 1946. Six others attended Aquatic School through the war years. Many swimming certificates have been issued through the Boy and Girl Scout Camps to the Bloomfield children.

Public Information

Chairmen:

1939-1944 Mrs. Agnes Noel
1945-1946 Miss Vesta Parsons

Throughout the years, Bloomfield Chapter, American Red Cross, has been indebted for the generous space allowed to it in The Independent Press, The Newark Evening News, The Newark Star-Ledger and The Newark Sunday Call.

Such space has amounted to thousands of dollars in value and has kept people informed on the needs and accomplishments of their Red Cross. Always, the newspapers have been our chief medium of public information.

There have been other media employed. These have included window displays made possible not only by the efforts of those people who made the displays, but also by the merchants who donated the use of their windows. Thirdly, we have had the benefit of radio appeal over Station WPAT and of personal appeal in the speeches on Red Cross during War Fund Drives before employees of various Bloomfield industries.

In 1945, the publication of the Chapter bulletin was resumed.

Knowing that an informed public is a responsive public, we use these varied means to tell the Red Cross story to the American public.

Fund Raising

Prior to Pearl Harbor, Bloomfield Red Cross Chapter was one of the participating agencies in the Community Chest:

Year	Amount				
1939	\$ 5,084.80	Contributed from Community Chest			
1940	6,814.50	"	"	"	"
1941	7,000.00	"	"	"	"
1942	8,000.00	"	"	"	"
	<u>\$26,899.30</u>				

Red Cross War Fund

Year	Amount	Chairman
1942	\$32,929.12	Mr. William A. Ellis
1943	87,000.00	Mr. William A. Ellis
1944	116,349.27	Mr. Robert L. Marcotte
1945	129,004.56	Mr. Robert L. Marcotte
1946	<u>54,701.62</u>	Mr. Elvin E. Hallander
	<u>\$419,984.57</u>	

It was very gratifying to find such able leaders who volunteered each year to head our campaigns. Two of our leaders served successive years and our goal was always over subscribed. Hundreds of willing workers gave of their time, efforts and talents so that ample funds could be provided to carry on this matchless work.

Long range planning for the future Bloomfield Red Cross includes transferring of its Public Health Nursing Service to a public or a private agency; accelerating its educational services with special emphasis upon nutrition, home nursing, safety services and first aid; maintenance of the production program necessitated by overseas conditions and the needs in our hospitals and through the many other services maintain the fine relationships existing between the Bloomfield Chapter, American Red Cross and other organizations in the community.